same period in Italy, there might be three times as many slaves as freemen. We need not draw any picture of the evils, physical, intellectual, and moral, to which the people would be exposed in such a state of society, as the mind of modern Europe is happily sensitive on the subject of slavery.

Contrasting ourselves with the ancients, we boast, and we are so far entitled to boast, of modern civilisation. In former ages, there was a much more limited middle class, and the lower orders had vastly less freedom and privilege. But this difference has at times been over estimated. In ancient times the labouring classes were supplied, by those who employed them, with at least the necessaries of life ; and there were architects, master-builders, and overseers of works, there were centurions and other army officials, all with large privileges, besides proprietors and occupants of the soil, together composing an important middle class. Then, it may be doubted whether many of the working classes in our own land and age have not as great an amount of toil, and as few bodily comforts, (we speak not now of higher privileges, in respect of which the modern is immeasurably superior,) to remunerate them, as the slaves in ancient Egypt or Borne. We are apt to be deluded when we take a survey of our own achievements, as much as when we examine those of the ancients. Our nearness to them impresses us unduly with their greatness. Ever since the days of Dr. Adam Smith, we have been seeking to promote a great abstraction which we call national wealth, and in looking to it we forget that to which it should be a mere stepping-stone—national happiness and national virtue. A traveller takes a rapid tour through the manufacturing districts of England, and visits the more populous towns; and he is filled with admiration of our large factories, our mighty machinery, and shipping, advertised to sail to every continent and island

and important city in the world. But has he entered the houses in which the workmen live ?—has he sat at their boards and viewed their domestic arrangements ?—has he inquired into the character of woman as affected by the state of society or by her work, which takes her from her family, or renders her unfit for the management of it ?—has he inquired into the training of the rising generation, and estimated the temptations of the youth oi both sexes at that critical period of life when feelings of pride and independence spring up siiiiiiltaneoualy with the rise of the lustful